

Washington - Today, Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE) and the House Energy and Commerce Committee heard testimony from Governors Haley Barbour (R-MS), Gary Herbert (R-UT), and Deval Patrick (R-MA) discussing their states' experiences complying with the health care law's mandates, particularly the burdens imposed by requirements to maintain their Medicaid eligibility in return for federal dollars.

Under the health care law, states will be required to expand their Medicaid programs beginning in 2014 - a policy change which will shift a series of costs to states over the long term. With many states facing budgetary shortfalls, these mandates could prove to be hurdles as states attempt to reduce costs while providing quality coverage and care to Medicaid beneficiaries.

"Washington policies too often cause headaches for our states rather than help. The challenges our states are facing implementing the health care bill is just one example of how federal mandates are standing in the way of economic recovery. The misguided health care bill has dramatically expanded the federal government mandates forced onto states already struggling to right their fiscal ships. Congress needs to work with the states to provide the flexibility they need to serve all Americans," Terry said.

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